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SOURCE Novo Borba, No 21, 1949. [Anti-Tito emigre newspaper.]

WORKING CONDITIONS IN YUGOSLAV MINES SCORED

Never have Yugoslav miners worked under such difficult and dangerous conditions as they do now, under the terror of the Tito-Rankovic clique.

In the Resava-Bare mine the mine railroad is overloaded, the cuts are collapsing, and ventilator shafts are choked off. Passages in the Vrsaka Cuka mine are cut just as poorly. The Miladije pit in the Kreka mine has not been producing since February, because fires have been occurring there on such a scale that no work has been possible.

In the fourth shaft of the Aleksinac mine, because of the pressure to maintain production at any price, not only the production of this shaft is now in question, but the life and health of the miners are threatened. One miner died of carbon-monoxide poisoning.

The Idrija mine, which has a very complex pit, has only natural ventilation. The mercury vapor is held up, therefore, and it accumulates and poisons the workers.

An unsecured car rolled downhill in the Bor surface mines and killed three workers. Remains of explosives in the drilling at the Trepca mine exploded, killing six miners and seriously wounding others.

At the Podlabin mine in Istria, in the rush to fulfill the plan, no attention was given to preventing the coal dust from settling in a large section of the pit. The resulting explosion killed 84 miners, and the mine has been closed indefinitely.

Women are also employed by the mines under such conditions. The total proportion of women employed in mining is 8 percent of the total working force (only 2.5 percent were so employed in prewar Yugoslavia), although employment of women in the pits is prohibited by law.

A large number of women are forced to work in the pits in the Zasava basin and in Mezica.

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